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UNCLAS BEIJING 002868

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EEB/TRA DAS JOHN BYERLY  
STATE FOR EAP/CM PETER SECOR/JOY YAMAMOTO  
TRANSPORTATION FOR DAS SUSAN MCDERMOTT/DAS JOEL SZABAT  
TRANSPORTATION FOR X1, X40  
TRANSPORTATION FOR BERNESTINE ALLEN/NICOLE PORTER  
TREASURY FOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TAIYA SMITH  
TREASURY FOR AMBASSADOR ALAN HOLMER  
TREASURY FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR DAN WRIGHT  
STATE PASS USTR ANN MAIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JULY 22 VICE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT LETTER TO  
DOT DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: A) DOT/POST Email July 11

¶1. (U) The July 22 letter from VM Weng comes in response to a July 10 letter from Deputy Secretary Barrett regarding the bilateral Transportation Forum launched during the Fourth Strategic Economic Dialogue in Annapolis (Ref A).

¶2. (U) On July 23, post received via facsimile diplomatic note No. (2008)092 dated July 22 from the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Transport (MOT) transmitting a letter from MOT Vice Minister Weng Mengyong to United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Deputy Secretary Thomas Barrett (Note: Courtesy translation provided by MOT. End Note). Pot e-mailed a scanned version of the letter to DOT on July 23. The text of the letter is below.

¶3. Begin text of MOT translation of letter:

July 22, 2008

H.E. Thomas J. Barrett  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
The United States of America

Your Excellency,

Thank you for your letter dated July 10, 2008. The Chinese side converges with your proposal on the division of areas concerning the first project under the Transportation Forum-the joint study survey on trade flows and infrastructure development. Now we are coordinating with relevant ministries and authorities to follow up the TF initiative and getting down to the area of "disaster assistance coordination" under the joint project.

Hereby, I would like to reiterate that the Ministry of Transport of P.R. China is willing to join hand in hand with your Department to put in place what we have agreed upon, make full preparations for the first TF and promote the efficient, safe and sustainable development of transportation between both countries.

As for details, Mr. Li Guangling, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation, will keep closely in touch with Ms. Susan McDermott of DOT.

I am convinced that the cooperation between our two organizations will achieve fruitful results.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Weng Mengyong  
Vice Minister of Transport  
The People's Republic of China

End text.

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